

REMARKS

By the present Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the claims to better conform them with standard U.S. practice.

Entry of the foregoing and prompt and favorable consideration of the subject application on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated May 23, 2001

3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the heating means are provided in at least one of said press surfaces (108, 112) and heat said fabric structure (106) at least in positions intended to become said deformation zones (111, 111').
4. (Amended) A method according to claim 2 [or 3], characterized in that the fluid-pervious fabric is preheated before said deformation in the Z-direction.
5. (Amended) A method according to claim 2 [any one of claims 2-4], characterized in that at least one of said press surfaces (108, 112) is provided on a rotatable embossing roll.
6. (Amended) A method according to claim 2 [any one of claims 2-5], characterized in that the second fabric patterning members (113, 113') are provided on a single point deforming means programmed for generating said deformation in a chosen configuration across at least one of said surfaces of said fluid-pervious fabric contacting said support.
10. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 [any one of claims 7-9], characterized in that the support comprises a heating zone in which said fluid is added for heating said fabric and creating said forming pressure.

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11. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 [any one of claims 7-10],
characterized in that the support comprises a cooling zone subsequent to said heating zone.

12. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 [any one of claims 7-11], characterized in that the fluid-pervious fabric is heated with heated air before said deformation in the Z-direction, and that the fluid-pervious fabric thereafter is cooled down with cooled air in order to render said deformation permanent.

13. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 [any one of claims 7-12], characterized in that the support is a rotatable, cylindrical roll.

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 7 [any one of claims 7-13], characterized in that the support comprises a sintered metallic material or a metal wire.

17. (Amended) A fluid-pervious fabric according to claim 15 [or 16], characterized in that the fluid-pervious fabric (401) exhibits said deformation in a chosen configuration across at least one of said surfaces (404, 405).

20. (Amended) A patterned fibre web according to claim 18 [or 19], characterized in that the fibre web (503) has been wet-formed or foam-formed.

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21. (Amended) A patterned fibre web according to claim 18 [or 19],
characterized in that the fibre web has been air-laid.
22. (Amended) A patterned fibre web according to claim 18 [any one of claims
18-21], characterized in that the fibre web has been hydraulically apertured or entangled.
23. (Amended) A patterned fibre web according to claim 18 [any one of claims
18-22], characterized in that the fibre web has been through-air dried (TAD).
24. (Amended) A patterned fibre web according to claim 18 [any one of claims
18-23], characterized in that the patterns (502, 502', 502") in the fibre web (503) has been
created by means of forming and/or patterning/aperturing on, and/or drying or shaping in
contact with at least one fluid-pervious fabric (401) according to claim 15 [any one of
claims 15-17].

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